

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A vehicular mirror system comprising:
a base adapted to be mounted to a vehicle; and
a mirror assembly including:
 a reflective element carrier mounted to the base;
 a reflective element associated with the reflective element carrier for providing a rearward view to an occupant of the vehicle; and
 a power distributor operatively interconnected with the reflective element for distributing power from a single electrical power connector to a plurality of functional elements associated with the reflective element.

[Claim 2] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the power distributor further comprises a support member disposed between the reflective element carrier and the reflective element.

[Claim 3] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the support member has an electrical power connector thereon adapted to be interconnected with an onboard power supply of the vehicle.

[Claim 4] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 3, wherein the electrical power connector is a ribbon cable.

[Claim 5] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the power distributor comprises a plurality of electrical leads corresponding to each of the plurality of functional elements of the vehicular mirror system.

[Claim 6] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plurality of functional elements are electrically independent of one another.

[Claim 7] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 6, wherein one of the plurality of functional elements comprises a heater for the reflective element.

[Claim 8] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the heater comprises an array of conductive elements which abut the reflective element.

[Claim 9] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 6, wherein one of the plurality of functional elements comprises a turn signal which abuts the reflective element.

[Claim 10] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 6, wherein one of the plurality of functional elements comprises a dimming device for the reflective element.

[Claim 11] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 10, wherein the dimming device is an electrochromic device.

[Claim 12] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the power distributor comprises a planar member having a periphery in register with the periphery of at least one of the reflective element carrier and the reflective element.

[Claim 13] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the power distributor comprises at least one power lead interconnected to an electrical connector for operative interconnection of the power distributor to an onboard power supply of the vehicle.

[Claim 14] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the power distributor comprises a first power lead operatively interconnected to a heating element.

[Claim 15] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 14, wherein the heating element comprises an array of conductive material associated with the power distributor corresponding to an effective imaging area of the reflective element, and wherein the array of conductive material is operatively connected to the first power lead.

[Claim 16] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 14, wherein the power distributor comprises a second power lead operatively interconnected to a turn signal.

[Claim 17] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 16, wherein the second power lead is operatively interconnected to the turn signal via an array of conductive material associated with the power distributor.

[Claim 18] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 16, wherein the power distributor comprises a third power lead operatively interconnected to a reflective element dimming device.

[Claim 19] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 18, wherein the third power lead is operatively interconnected to the reflective element dimming device via an array of conductive material associated with the power distributor.

[Claim 20] A vehicular mirror system in accordance with claim 18, wherein the electrical power connector operatively interconnects the first, second, and third power leads with the onboard power supply of the vehicle.